OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
STILLWATER

CIRCULAR OF INFORMATION NO. 17 SEPTEMBER, 1911

PLANS FOR DISTRIBUTING BERMUDA GRASS

O. O. CHURCHILL. *Agronomist*

Use of Bermuda.—Bermuda is now grown to some extent in nearly every county in Oklahoma. We do not recommend it for the Panhandle counties or a little part of the northwestern portion of the state. It has proven of great value as a pasture grass. It is especially valuable to prevent soil erosion and for pasture on rough land not well suited to general agriculture. Bermuda does not rank high as a hay producer, but the hay produced is of good quality. Bermuda makes a fine lawn grass.

What to Plant.—Plant only the roots. Do not use seed. Seed sold on the market is of very low vitality. Seed is grown only in the South where the plants are not subjected to cold weather, hence the plants grown from seed are not as hardy as those now grown in this state. It is almost impossible to get a satisfactory stand when seed is used.

Varieties.—We are growing only one variety of Bermuda. It contains several types, but these have never been selected to pure strains, although extensive work is being done along this line at the present time.

Seed Bed.—It will pay to thoroughly prepare the seed bed for Bermuda. Prepare as you would for corn or cotton.

Time of Planting.—The best time to plant Bermuda is from May 1 to June 15. An ideal time is just after a heavy rain.

Method of Planting.—Use from four to eight sacks of roots per acre. There are many good methods of planting. Some of the leading ones are as follows:

1. Furrow out in rows with the single-shovel and plant as you would potatoes. Cover either with a hoe or the foot.

2. Drop in every second or third furrow following a plow which is run two or three inches deep.

3. List the field, scatter roots in listed furrow and cover with a disk harrow.

Where to Plant.—Start your Bermuda on rough land where you wish a permanent pasture. Do not grow Bermuda when alfalfa and similar crops can be successfully produced. It does best on a sandy loam.

Eradicating Bermuda.—Bermuda is not difficult to eradicate in the northern half of Oklahoma. Plow it in the winter and allow the roots to be exposed to the freezing weather. Disc thoroughly in February and seed to oats or any other crop that will thoroughly shade the ground.

Where to Secure Roots.—The Experiment Station will be able to supply a limited quantity of roots during the months of May and June. We charge 50 cents per sack, f. o. b. Stillwater. If you have a neighbor growing Bermuda secure a start from him. We can supply any quantity from a few pounds up to four sacks to one party. It is necessary to limit the quantity sent owing to the heavy demand which exists in all parts of the state. The saving in express charges will be very marked, providing you can secure the roots near home.

Amount to Secure.—When starting Bermuda we advise that you order not more than four sacks. Bermuda is perishable and therefore must be shipped by express. This makes it rather expensive when a shipment is for any great distance. You can easily increase your acreage from your sod, hence you can soon have as large an acreage as desired by starting in a small way. The work can be done when the conditions are favorable and when labor might otherwise be idle.

Express Rates.—The cost of express per one hundred pounds from Stillwater to the following points will give some idea of this expense. Each sack of roots will weigh from forty to sixty pounds:

Alva	$1.20	Hugo	$2.10
Ardmore	1.20	Lawton	1.50
Chickasha	1.15	Muskogee	1.10
Elk City	1.75	Oklahoma City	.75
Enid	1.00	Tulsa	1.00

Improving the Stand.—If the Bermuda is thin it can be plowed shallow and harrowed or scattered in the same way as when first started, and the stand will be much improved. It is not necessary to plow the whole field but only the thin portions.

Disclaimer.—The Station does not guarantee that the roots will grow. Only vigorous roots are dug and shipped. If conditions are favorable there should be no difficulty in getting a stand. The roots are perishable and if left in the express office very many days or planted on poorly prepared land, or if conditions are not favorable they may not grow. Every precaution is taken in making the shipment, but in no case does the Station guarantee that the roots will grow.

Warning.—Do not allow chickens or hogs on the newly started lawn or field. These animals will eat the roots as well as the stems and will completely kill the plants unless they are allowed to get a good start. After the lawn or pasture is started the animals may be turned on without any danger of injury.

Notice.—You will be notified by card the same day the shipment is made. The express office will also be notified that unless the roots are called for inside of five days they may be sold in order to pay the express charges. This provision is necessary since the roots are perishable. In ordering be sure and give us your express office as well as your postoffice.

The price charged merely covers the cost of preparing the shipment. It is necessary to charge for the roots as the Station has no funds which can be used for this work. It must be self-supporting, hence NO SHIPMENT CAN BE MADE UNTIL THE PAYMENT IS RECEIVED.

Bermuda Sod Shaker

The cut shows a simple, inexpensive, home-made machine used to shake the dirt from the sod in preparing Bermuda shipments. The sod is plowed about three inches deep and the dirt is shaken out with this machine. Anyone can build such a machine and the total cost need not exceed $15.00.

O. O. CHURCHILL,
Agronomist.

OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Stillwater

The following are available publications of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station:

No. 45—A Catalog of the Ferns and Flowering Plants of Oklahoma.
No. 46—Digestion Trials.
No. 58—Fattening Steers; Using Cotton Seed, Cottonseed Meal, Wheat Meal, Wheat Straw and Hay.
No. 62—Disinfecting Power of Coal Tar Dips.
No. 63—Tuberculosis in Hogs.
No. 65—Wheat Growing.
No. 66—The Water Supply.
No. 67—Miscellaneous Water Analyses.
No. 69—Small Fruits.
No. 72—Tests of Dips as Lice and Tick Killers.
No. 75—A Study of the Bacterial Content of Cream.
No. 84—Variety Test of Peaches.
No. 87—Corn Culture.
No. 88—Southern Plum Aphis.
No. 89—Chemistry of the Kafir Corn Kernel.
No. 90—A Study of Bermuda Grass.
No. 91—The Twig Girdler.
No. 92—Spray Calendar.
No. 93—Artificial Insemination.
No. 94—Hog Feeding.
Circular No. 6—The Bactericidal Properties of Various Disinfectants.
Circular No. 7—The Value of Cotton Improvement.
Circular No. 8—The Spring Grain Aphis.
Circular No. 9—The Hessian Fly.
Circular No. 11—The Cattle Tick.
Circular No. 12—Summary of Experiment Station Work.
Circular No. 13—Selecting an Orchard Site.
Circular No. 14—Protecting Trees From Rabbits.
Circular No. 15—Some Types of Silos.
Fourteenth Annual Report.
Fifteenth Annual Report.
Sixteenth Annual Report.
Eighteenth Annual Report.